

February 20, 2007

To: The Honorable Senator Edith Prague  
The Honorable Representative Kevin Ryan  
The Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees

From Deborah B. Noble  
Tariffville, CT  
Former Town of Windham Selectwoman, Working Families Party

RE: SB 601 "AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE PAID  
SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES"

I am writing in support of SB 601 An Act Mandating Employers to Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees. I would like to thank Senator Maryann Handley for introducing this vital and important piece of legislation. I am a full time, 40 hour per week professional who does not have paid sick days, let alone any other type of paid time off.

I am technically a "Temporary" employee with no benefits, no paid sick days off and I have been one for over 6 months in the same assignment. My employer is a well respected legal placement firm in Simsbury, CT. I work at an insurance company, also in Simsbury, with hundreds of employees and a large profit margin. I have been repeatedly told how much my work is valued, but not valued enough to provide me and my family with our basic needs, such as paid sick leave, health benefits, and any sense of job security. In fact, I am paid approx. \$35,000 annually, much too much to qualify for HUSKY, but not enough to purchase health benefits or to save so I can to afford my own rainy day fund.

Of course, I do my best to stay in good health and plan my illnesses for the weekends because if I get sick, not only does my family lose income, but until this month I had to pay my own physician's bills. The last one was over \$500 for an annual check up and blood tests. Earlier this month my 13-son was sick with an intestinal virus. Fortunately it was only a 24-hour illness because I could not afford to stay home with him. It was not the first time I have had to choose between being a Mother or being an Employee, but I am hoping, with your insight and good public policy, it will be the last.

Thank you for you time and consideration.

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